

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 23-37 are currently pending.

II. Information Disclosure Statements:

Information Disclosure Statements were filed in the application on March 12, 2004 and August 26, 2005 as reflected in PAIR. Upon review of the Office Action, the Applicants noticed that the reference Shiozawa (along with its English translation) cited in the OTHER DOCUMENTS section on the PTO Form 1449 for the IDS of August 26, 2005 was not initialed. The Office Action also did not include any initialed copies of the PTO Form 1449 for the IDS of March 12, 2004. Accordingly, the Applicants would greatly appreciate consideration of these IDSs (if not already considered) and the references cited thereon, and a copy of the initialed Form PTO 1449 reflecting consideration of all the references cited in these IDS.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 23-24, 28-29 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nam et al. (US 6,138,163) in view of Kihl et al. (US 6,222,536). Claims 25, 30 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nam-Kihl in view of Segur (US 6,212,550). Claims 26-27, 31-32 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nam-Kihl in view of Gupta (US 6,212,565).

To address these rejections, the Applicants respectfully submit herewith a certified English translation of the foreign priority document, i.e., JP 9-267373, filed on

September 30, 1997 in Japan in order to perfect the claim to this foreign priority. Since at least the cited reference Kihl has an earliest U.S. filing date of December 30, 1997 (which is later than the foreign priority date of the current application), this reference is not believed to be prior art. Accordingly, claims 23-37 are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4473US1.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4473US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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